Great NEWS from

The Isle of Wight,

GIVING

A Full and True RELATION

OF THE

English and French Fleets

There, and of the Intended

ENGAGEMENT

OF THE

English with the French.

Yesterday being the Twenty Fourth Instant.

26 June. 1690

THE *French* King having for some Years past (by his *Leagues* and *Pecuniary Bribes*, during the Reigns of the two last Monarchs) been strengthening his Naval Preparations, with intent (when occasion should offer) to Dispute the Soveraignty of the *Seas*, as he had made his Usurpations on the Shoar; Resolved this Summer, to exert his utmost Maritime Effort, and give Battle to the *English* and *Dutch* Fleets: To which end he sent Directions to his Admirals at *Brest*, to Equippe and get ready, with all possible Dilligence, all his Men of War there, with Fire Ships and Tenders, *&c.* Who accordingly being ready; they Sailed out of *Brest* on the 9th instant; but; meeting with contrary Winds, they came in again the 12th.

But, on Friday, being the 20th instant, they put to Sea again, and were seen off of the Point or Lands End of *Cornwall* and *Pool*: And they were likewise seen off of *Weymouth* on *Sunday*, about Three in the Afternoon, steering their Course up the Channel, towards the *Isle of Wight*. The Mayor of *Waymouth* sent an Express of it immediatly to Her Majesty, and another to the Earl of *Torrington* at St. *Helleas*, and likewise, took care immediately to send out of the Town, in Coaches, Carts, and Waggons, all the Women and Children, lest the *French* should have Attempted to Land any Men: The Militia, and other Burgers were put in Armes, ready to Oppose any Designs. On the Arrival of the Express, our Fleet (consisting of Sixty Four Stout Men of War, besides Fire Ships and Tenders) by the Admirals Order, weighed Anchor, and drew out in a Line, in exact Form for Engageing, on which, it was observed, that the Seamen (throughout the whole Fleet) shewed an extraordinary Joy and Satisfaction, that they were going to Engage the always-hated Enemy the *French*; and thereby shew their Valour and Fidelity to Their Majesties, and Country. And when the last Advice came away, the two Fleets were within sight of each other, the breadth of the *Isle of Wight* only parting them; so that, it's hourly expected, that an Account will be brought of their being Engaged. There is no great difference, as to the Numbers of each Fleet; only (thanks be to GOD) at present, we have much the Advantage of the *French*, in having the Wind of them.

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